(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the claims pending against the NTC or subsidiary corporations on account of cancellation of the on-going projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) In the case of some of the mills under NTC (WBAB&O) Ltd., Calcutta, orders for civil works were cancelled, due tc pruning of modernisation schemes. There is no proposal to review expansion of such civil works.

(b) There is no loss of interest on account of pruning of modernisation schemes, since the funds invested pertained to equity capital. Since no capital machinery was procured by NTC under the scheme, there is no loss of production.

(c) to (e) NTC (WBAB&O) has settled the accounts with the concerned contractors. Only one contractor pursued for restoration of their order, which was restored. However, as he did not accept the PWD rates offered by NTC, his contract was cancelled.

Honouring of Export Commitments by Companies

642. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state.

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that all companies which have given export commitments, honour their commitments;

(b) whether there is any agency to monitor the exports of these companies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is already a provision in our procedure for monitoring of export commitments. The exporters are required to furnish periodic returns on year to year basis to competent authorities located at the Headquarters office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports or at the regional licensing offices, as the case may be, indicating their export performance in a specific format.

(c) and (d) It is not possible to collect and coordinate vast mass of material from the thirty one Regional Offices which issue various kinds of licences including licences involving export commitments.

Trade Agreement with Saudi Arabia

643. SHRI E. AHAMED: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have entered into any new trade agreement with Saudi Arabia; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Constitution of Pepper Board

644. SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute Pepper Board;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) No proposal to Constitute a Pepper Board is under consideration of the Government. Pepper is already under the purview of the Spices Board.